

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): P.L. Bradshaw et al. Examiner 2145  
Serial No. 09/972,207 Group Art Unit A.Q. Choudhury  
Filed October 5, 2001 Docket No. SJO920010097US1  
TITLE STORAGE AREA NETWORK METHODS AND APPARATUS WITH  
HIERARCHICAL FILE SYSTEM EXTENSION POLICY

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**CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8:**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via the EFS-Web system to Examiner Choudhury of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on August 16, 2006.

/David Victor/  
David W. Victor

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This paper is submitted in response to a non-final office action in the above case dated May 16, 2006 ("Third Office Action") in which the Examiner rejected all the claims as anticipated (35 U.S.C. §102) by prior cited art. This Third Office Action was submitted in response to an Appeal Brief to reopen prosecution based on new prior art the Examiner found. In the Third Office Action, the Examiner requested that Applicants contact him to expedite prosecution. In response to a phone request by Applicants for a phone interview, the Examiner requested that Applicants submit a response to the Third Office Action and schedule a subsequent interview to discuss this Response. Applicants traverse the prior art rejections for the reasons discussed herein and submit that all pending claims 1-4, 6, 16, and 18-34 are in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 8.